



Department of Justice

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MONTANA MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

BILLINGS – Bryan Scott Phillips, a resident of Great Falls, was sentenced today to a term of 87 months in federal prison in connection with his guilty plea to receipt and possession of child pornography. Phillips was also ordered to pay a special assessment of \$200, forfeit his computer equipment, and will be under supervision for 5 years.

In an Offer of Proof filed by the United States, the government stated it would have proved at trial the following:

The Wyoming Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force initiated an undercover operation targeting peer to peer file sharing networks offering child pornography.

In July of 2005, a computer utilizing the IP address assigned to Phillips at his residence on the Air Force Base in Great Falls, offered to participate in the distribution of child pornography.

On September 20, 2005, Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents executed a search warrant at Phillips' residence. Found during the search was a computer that Phillips admitted he used to receive and possess child pornography.

Forensic analysis of Phillips' computer revealed numerous image files and movies containing images of children engaged in sexually explicit conduct. When questioned, Phillips admitted his role in receiving and possessing child pornography via the Internet.

Because there is no parole in the federal system, the "truth in sentencing" guidelines mandate that Phillips will likely serve **all** of the time imposed by the court. In the federal system, Phillips does have the opportunity to earn a sentence reduction for "good behavior." However, this reduction will not exceed 15% of the overall sentence.

The investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant United States Attorney Marcia K. Hurd prosecuted the case.

"This case is being brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the United States Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute

individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.”

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